

Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /139 W

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R 161602Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8959

INFO USCINCSO CZ

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

S E C R E T N O F O R N BOGOTA 6722

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, CO, VE

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN OFFSHORE BOUNDARY DISPUTE

REFS: BOGOTA 5348 AND 6697

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. A HIGH-RANKING SOURCE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT HE UPBRAIDED FOREIGN MINISTER VAZQUEZ FOR AGREEING TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH VENEZUELA AFTER COLOMBIA HAS INVOKED THE 1939 TREATY. (AFTER WE SENT OUR TELEGRAM 5348 TO THE DEPARTMENT, COLOMBIA DID IN FACT INVOKE THE 1939 TREATY.)

2. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAS IN NO WAY AGREED TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS.

WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT HE AND PRESIDENT PASTRANA WERE SUBJECTED TO "INCREDIBLE PRESSURES" (THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S WORDS) WHILE IN VENEZUELA; NOT ONLY WERE THEY SUBJECTED TO AN EMBARRASSING AMOUNT OF FLATTERY AND ATTENTION, BUT PRESIDENT CALDERA ASSURED THEM THAT THE VENEZUELAN HAD SOME NEW IDEAS TO PUT FORWARD. VAZQUEZ REPORTED THAT HE TOLD THE VENEZUELAN THAT NEGOTIATIONS

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HAVE ENDED AND THE COLOMBIANS HAVE INVOKED THE 1939 TREATY

BUT THAT HE WAS WILLING TO HEAR WHAT THE VENEZUELANS HAD TO SAY. HE TOLD THEM HE WOULD SHORTLY RETURN FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI'S VISIT TO COLOMBIA OF DECEMBER 1971 AND THAT AT THAT TIME WOULD LISTEN TO VENEZUELA'S NEW IDEAS. HE ALSO TOLD THE VENEZUELANS THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM ON THEIR PROPOSALS BUT WOULD HAVE TO BRING THEM BACK TO BOGOTA FOR STUDY. IF PRESIDENT PASTRANA FINDS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING OF INTEREST AND SO AUTHORIZES HIM, VAZQUEZ WILL AT THAT TIME AGREE TO ENTER INTO A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AS WE REPORTED EARLIER, THE COLOMBIANS HAVE NOT WEAKENED IN THEIR RESOLVE TO MOVE THE ISSUE TO INDIRECT MEANS OF SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE VENEZUELANS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING VERY ATTRACTIVE TO INDUCE COLOMBIA TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO INVOKE THE 1939 TREATY.

WHITE

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NNN

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